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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LELAND J. CORNELOUS, 38, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 17 years and 2 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge John Daniel Tinder following his guilty plea to armed bank robbery. This case was the result of a several week investigation by the Marion County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CORNELOUS entered the Fifth Third Bank branch at 83rd and Michigan on February 14, 2004 with an object that looked like a gun. CORNELOUS demanded money from the teller drawers. CORNELOUS jumped over the counter and demanded one of the tellers take him to the vault where he obtained more cash. CORNELOUS walked out of the bank with

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\$83,847. CORNELOUS engaged officers in a high speed chase through the residential streets of the northwest side of Indianapolis for several miles before law enforcement called off the pursuit due safety concerns. A search warrant was obtained for CORNELOUS' residence on March 23, 2004. CORNELOUS possessed \$26,060 in cash, and his house had been recently furnished with new items. Law enforcement determined that a particular car, which had been used by CORNELOUS to drive to and from the bank, contained evidence from the bank.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Tinder also imposed five years supervised release following CORNELOUS' imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, CORNELOUS must undergo drug testing. CORNELOUS was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$57,787. CORNELOUS had been on supervised release from his conviction of two federally charged bank robberies in 1991. Two years of the 17 year sentence handed down by Judge Tinder was specifically for violating his terms of that supervised release.

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